

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SAM-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 /040 W

----- 003791

P R 191404Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6789

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2503

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PIRES VELOSO VISIT

REF: STATE 092827 (DTG 162002Z APR 76)

1. NORTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER BG ANTONIO PIRES VELOSO TOLD AMCONSUL OPORTO APR 14 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM VARIOUS LUSO-AMERICAN SOCIETIES TO MAKE SPRING VISIT AND WAS THINKING IT OVER. HE SAID GROUPS FROM NEWARK, HARTFORD, NEW BEDFORD, AND SAN DIEGO HAD ISSUED INVITATIONS. VELOSO ANNOUNCED TO PRESS ON APRIL 16 THAT HE WAS PLANNING A TRIP TO THE US IN EARLY MAY. ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AFTER VELOSO HAD DINED WITH THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS OF STAFF AND AF FIRST AIR REGION COMMANDER GEN PINHO FREIRE.

2. DEVELOPMENT BANK PRESIDENT JOAO SALGUEIRO TOLD CHARGE APRIL 15 THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY VELOSO TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON A TRIP TO THE US.

3. COMMENT: VELOSO IS AT THIS MOMENT A -- PERHAPS THE-- LEADING PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECT. HE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES -- ALTHOUGH NONE HAS MADE A FORMAL COMMITMENT -- AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED WITHIN THE MILITARY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE

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SERVICE CHIEFS HAVE GIVEN THEIR BLESSING TO HIS TRIP AND MAY

BE ENCOURAGING HIS CANDIDACY. INVITATION TO SALGUEIRO, A HIGHLY RESPECTED ECONOMIST, SUGGESTS THAT VELOSO SEES THIS TRIP AS A WAY TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS IN SUPPORT OF HIS CANDIDACY. SALGUEIRO WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP VELOSO OUT IN DISCUSSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, A PRINCIPLE SOURCE OF CONCERN TO GOP.

4. AMCONSUL OPORTO IS IN TOUCH WITH VELOSO AND EXPECTS TO SEE HIM AGAIN THIS WEEK CONCERNING TRIP ARRANGEMENTS.
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